

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 H-02 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05

HUD-01 HEW-04 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 OES-06 DOTE-00

SAM-01 SAB-01 INT-05 FEAE-00 ABF-01 OMB-01 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5811

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, UN

SUBJ: UN CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: INDIAN GOVERNMENT
VIEWS

REF: STATE 108167

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED ISSUES RAISED REFTEL WITH BHARAT BANSAL OF GOI DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DOST). GOI HAS SET UP INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF DOST SECRETARY A. RAMACHANDRAN. BANSAL IS IN CHARGE OF COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES AND, AS SUCH, ATTENDED JANUARY SESSION OF PREPARATORY COMMITTEE.

2. DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES: BANSAL SAID HE HAD JUST RECEIVED FINAL DOCUMENTATION FOR CONFERENCE AND THUS COULD CONVEY NEITHER GOI VIEWS ON ADEQUACY OF DRAFT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES NOR EVEN HIS OWN. HE TOOK NOTE OF US POSITION ON PROPOSED LANGUAGE DEALING WITH SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATURAL RESOURCES, COMMENTING THAT PROBLEM SEEMED A QUESTION OF SEMANTICS. (COMMENT: CLEARLY DOST HAS LITTLE INTEREST IN THE ISSUE AND GOI POSITION WILL BE DETERMINED

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IN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY.)

3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION: BANSAL SAW PRINCIPAL PROBLEM TO BE HOW BEST TO ENSURE THAT IMPETUS FROM CONFERENCE HAD SOME LASTING EFFECT. HE IMPLIED GOI HAD NO PROGRAM PROPOSALS OF ITS OWN, BUT WOULD JUDGE PROPOSALS OF OTHERS FROM VIEWPOINT OF MAINTAINING MOMENTUM. WITH REGARD TO INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, GOI POSITION WAS THAT FIRST REQUIREMENT WAS TO ESTABLISH CLEAR CUT PROGRAM GOALS FOR REFORMED ADMINISTRATIVE BODY. INTERNAL ORGANIZATION AND OPERATING EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS UNIT WAS IMPORTANT FACTOR, AND QUESTION OF ITS LOCATION WAS RELATIVELY INCONSEQUENTIAL. IN RESPONSE TO THIS, EMBOFF REITERATED IMPORTANCE US ATTACHED TO EFFECTIVENESS OF UN ADMINISTRATION, ESPECIALLY IN CONTEXT OF OVERALL REVIEW OF UN STRUCTURE CURRENTLY UNDERWAY.

4. COMMENT: WE WILL PURSUE THESE QUESTIONS WITH MEA'S UN DIVISION NEXT WEEK, SINCE MANY OF THEM FALL OUTSIDE SUBSTANTIVE PURVIEW OF DOST. AS INTERAGENCY COORDINATION ABOUT TO BEGIN, WE WILL ALSO TRY TO GET FINAL READING ON GOI ATTITUDES BEFORE DELEGATION LEAVES FOR CONFERENCE.
SAXBE

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